

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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This petition of Australian citizens draws the attention of the House to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's decision to cancel its broadcasting of lawn bowls on free-to-air television.

- The ABC has a Charter set out in section 6 of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983 that states it should broadcast programs that contribute to a sense of national identity and inform and entertain, and reflect the cultural diversity of the Australian community and further requires it to provide a balance between wide appeal and specialised broadcasting programs.
- Lawn bowls is one of the highest participation sports in Australia with around 800,000 people playing lawn bowls each year.
- 66% of participants in the sport are over the age of 60 but it appeals across generations with many younger people participating socially in the sport, as well a children participating through structured programs such as the Australian Sports Commission's Active After Schools Program.
- Bowling clubs are an important part of the Australian community, particularly in rural and regional Australia.
- Over 300,000 people nationally on average view the bowls broadcast each week, increasing to just under 500,000 people for major tournaments.
- The broadcast of lawn bowls on free-to-air TV not only provides a service to existing members but promotes and profiles lawn bowls to prospective participants.

We ask that the House support the immediate reinstatement of lawn bowls on the ABC.

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